

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA - 1088

1310885204

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Woodlawn Farm

AND/OR COMMON
Woodlawn Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4800 Old Philadelphia Road

FIRST

CITY, TOWN
Aberdeen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
— STRUCTURE
— SITE
— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
— BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS
— BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
— UNOCCUPIED
— WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
— YES: RESTRICTED
— YES: UNRESTRICTED
— NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE — MUSEUM
— COMMERCIAL — PARK
— EDUCATIONAL — PRIVATE RESIDENCE
— ENTERTAINMENT — RELIGIOUS
— GOVERNMENT — SCIENTIFIC
— INDUSTRIAL — TRANSPORTATION
— MILITARY — OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Grace I. Terry

Telephone #: 272-3912

STREET & NUMBER
4800 Old Philadelphia Road

CITY, TOWN
Aberdeen

— VICINITY OF

Maryland STATE 21001 zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of Circuit Court

Liber #: HDC 911
Folio #: 436

STREET & NUMBER
40 S. Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air,

Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"In 1882," George H. Slee writes in his autobiography, "We moved to a larger farm which my father had purchased called the "Woodlawn." This farm, about 1 mile from the old one at Stepney, is completely surrounded by wood land, not bordering on any road or highway, is one-quarter mile off the Old Baltimore and Wilmington Turnpike."

This farm has managed to remain an island surrounded by woodland through road rights-of-way and pleas to neighbors not to develop the surrounding lands. It is located off Route 7 and the house faces south-east.

The house, now a series of apartments, is in three sections, and except for a few alterations in the recent past to convert the large house into apartments (changing a window into a door, installation of outdoor stairways to second and third level entrances) the house is the same as it was after the remodelling in 1907 (Autobiography of George H. Slee, 1959, p.3). The major change made in 1907 was in the roof line.

SECTION 1, the southeastern section, is a 2½ story, frame structure with a gambrel flank, asphalt covered roof, 3 bays by 3. It has a wide brick chimney on the inside east end. There are two windows on each gambrel end. There is one dormer on the northern side with 2 windows, each 2 lights over 2. The south side has 3 shed roof dormers with one window in each, all 2 lights over 2. The windows on the first floor front are 9 lights over 9. The entrance on the south west has a transom with 4 lights. There is a 3 bay dentilled piazza on the south side which extends up over the second story windows.

Before the remodelling of 1907, this section had a gable flank roof with a hip roof cupola in the center. One dormer was located on the north west side of the roof. It is not known if there were any on the south side, nor is it known if there was a porch at that time.

The cellar under this section is approximately 5'5" high. There are stone fireplace supports in the east wall and a large stone support in the center of the cellar.

SECTION 2, the middle section, is a 2 story, 3 bay, rubble stone structure. The roof is gable flank and there is one gabled dormer on the south west side. There is a corbelled brick chimney on the north inside end. The rubble stone walls are stuccoed and there is a low, plain water table. There are "S" braces on the walls. The entrance is in the center bay of the west side. All windows are 6 lights over 6 and have louvered shutters. This section has been changed very little on the outside. Aside from getting a new roofing and stucco, the house is the same as when Cicero Slee purchased the house in 1883 (and probably for some time before).

This section has one large room on the first floor. The fireplace in the north end is bricklined and has a wooden mantle. There is plain wainscoting on each wall. There is no stairway to the second floor, entrance to that floor being obtained by the stairway in the third section. The owner pointed out a barely visible crack in the northwest corner of the plastered ceiling and told us that a trap door is believed to have been there, which led up to the second floor. It is not known whether there was a stairway or a ladder. There is no cellar under this section, but there is a 12 inch crawl space. The attic rafters are roughly hewn logs. The chimney in the north end was originally on the exterior and had two small windows flanking the chimney.

SECTION 3, on the north end, is a 2½ story, 3 bay by 4, frame structure. The gable front roof is extended on the north end to the first story. A shed dormer is located at the second story elevation of the north end. It has low, stone foundations. The entrance is on the west end. Windows are 6 lights over 6. Prior to the remodelling, the roof of

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The oldest section of this house may possibly date to 1798. The Federal Tax List of that year lists Isaac Perryman as the owner of 100 acres of a farm called Woodlawn, being in the Susquehanna Hundred. As his tenant is listed "Widow Perryman." The house is not described at all, however; it being assessed as worth only \$ 30.00. John Perryman is shown as owner of what is believed to be this same land in the 1783 Maryland Tax List.

Samuel Perryman is listed as a bachelor in the St. George's Parish tax list of 1760. It is not known what relationship these men are to each other but they no doubt were related. Isaac Perryman, born in 1779, and Samuel Perryman were both active in church work in St. George's Parish. Isaac served as a vestryman of the Spesutia Church in 1796. He also served on the Petit Jury during the August term of Court in 1806. Isaac Perryman is listed as a tanner in that deed conveying this property to James Bacon in 1815.

Jacob W. Giles, who purchased the farm in 1827, served as a vestryman at Spesutia Church in 1823.

The Reverend Savington W. Crampton was elected rector of Spesutia Church in 1845. In 1851, he served on a building committee to erect the fourth Spesutia Church and he conducted dedication services on September 18, 1851. The Reverend Crampton is the author of a pamphlet history of the "Spesutie" Church. He purchased the Woodlawn Farm in 1863 and kept it until 1875.

Dr. Jacob A. Preston owned part of the farm for some time and in 1870, his daughter, Fanny, conveyed 30 acres of the property to the Reverend Crampton. Dr. Preston served as a vestryman at the church during 1829, 1834, and 1851.

The Slee family, owners of the property from 1883 until 1951, were farmers. Cicero Slee, who purchased the Woodlawn Farm, had been born on a farm a short distance away from this property, at Stepney. He was also in the canning business.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford County Directory; 1953, p. 80.
Preston, Walter W.; History of Harford County. Press of the Sun Book Office, Baltimore.
pp. 153 - 155.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 75 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

9/76

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

this section was gable front. The structure was 2 bays by 2 and had a 1 story shed to the north.

Mary C. Wright, a relative of the Slee family, informed me that the initial remodelling of the house was done in 1907, as is written in George H. Slee's autobiography. This was while Cicero Slee, his father, still lived there. The remodelling, done by architect brother, John Bay Slee, continued for several years after.

George H. Slee described the house as "a large one over two hundred years old, nicely situated on high ground, has been added to through three generations, has seventeen rooms and three baths." (Slee, p. 4).

A small coursed rubble stone smokehouse lies directly west of the middle section of the house. It is one story high with a gable front roof. The door, in the center gable front, is of plank. Above the door is a bricked in area of about two feet. There are no windows. Mr. Slee writes that this smokehouse is also "more than 200 years old." (Slee, p. 4).

A stable to the north west of the house is frame set on high rubble stone foundations. Entrance is gained on two elevations as it is built into a slight hill. A cupola in the center of the gable flank roof has a steep hip roof and is designed for use by birds and has several entrances for them.

The 1798 tax assessment lists one dwelling on this tract, Stony Ridge. They assessed its value at \$30.00 and gave no description of the building materials.

TITLE SEARCH
EA - 1033

Woodlawn Farm
Grace I. Terry
4800 Old Philadelphia Road
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001

HDC	911/436		Grantor: Colquitt Investments, Inc. Grantee: Thomas H. Williams, Henry M. Wright, Jr., Grace I. Terry Acreage: 75 acres
GRG	655/96	8/26/64	Grantor: John D. and Virginia Nicolaides Grantee: Colquitt Reality, Inc. (Colquitt Investments, Inc.)
GRG	361/71	8/10/51	Grantor: J. Wilmer Cronin, executor, estate of Warren Hudson Slee, deceased, and Elizabeth Cady Slee, his wife. Grantee: John D. and Virginia Nicolaides
RLW	22/300	1950	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of Warren Hudson Slee Grantee: Slee directed that, after the death of his wife, Elizabeth, the lands be sold at private or public sale, without recourse to any court.
RLW	22/277	1946	Grantor: Last Will and Testament of John Bay Slee Grantee: Warren Hudson Slee, his brother
JAR	153/354	9/30/16	Grantor: Cicero C. Slee and Wife Grantee: John Bay Slee, their son In deed, is mention of the farm being called "Stony Ridge"
ALJ	46/147	1/2/1863	Grantor: Louis Martin and Wife Grantee: Cicero Slee and Wife
ALJ	32/210	10/2/1875	Grantor: Reverend and Mrs. Savington W. Crampton Grantee: Louis Martin
1. WG	14/319	8/6/1863	Grantor: Dr. William L. Horton Grantee: Savington W. Crampton Acreage: 36 acres, part of "woodlawn farm"
HDG	33/489	1/15/1848	Grantor: George C. and Jane Kirk Davis Grantee: William L. Horton
HD	15/55	4/14/1832	Grantor: John Anderson Grantee: Jane Kirk
HD	11/318	5/8/1828	Grantor: Jacob W. Giles Grantee: John Anderson
HD	11/98	6/5/1827	Grantor: John Scott, trustee Grantee: Jacob W. Giles "sold by decree of high court..."
HD	2/276	8/20/1815	Grantor: Isaac Perryman Grantee: James Bacon Acreage: 36 acres, part of a farm commonly known as "Woodlawn"

It is not known from whom Isaac Perryman obtained this land, as there are no more transactions listed in the Harford County land records for this man. The 1783 Maryland Tax List does show, however, a John Perryman listed as owning 100 acres, part of a tract known as "Stony Ridge" in the Harford Upper Hundred. The 1798 tax list shows Isaac Perryman as the owner of this tract with "Widow Perryman" as his tenant.

WOOD LAWN FARM

HA - 1088

Continued

- 2 ALJ 32/307 9/1/1863 Grantor: William F. and Mary L. Pannell
 Grantee: Savington W. Crampton
 This deed is very unclear. It presents itself as a deed confirming ownership of a portion of land sold by Pannell to W.L. Horton in 1845 and Horton's right to sell it to Crampton. There are, however no land transactions listed between Pannell and Horton in the Harford County Land Records at that time.
3. ALJ 24/17 3/18/1870 Grantor: Fanny Preston
 Grantee: Savington W. Crampton
 Acreage: 30 3/4 acres
- BW 8/76 7/25/1867 Grantor: Last Will and Testament of Jacob A. Preston
 Grantee: Fanny Preston, his daughter

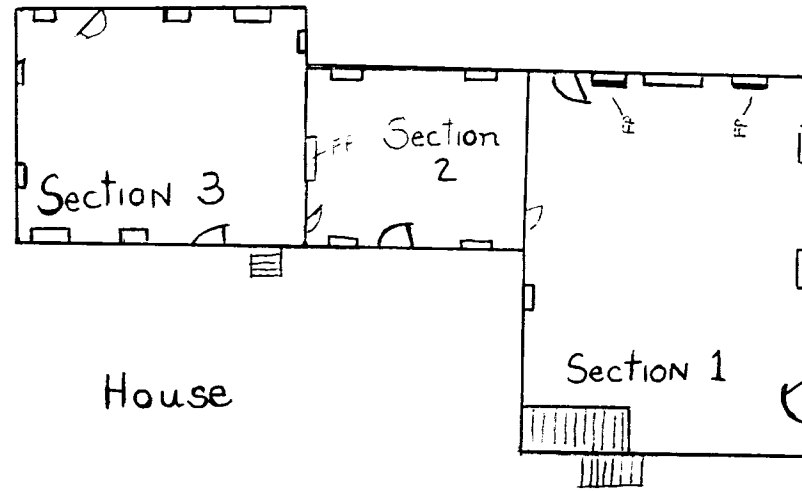
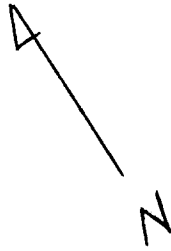


Before 1907



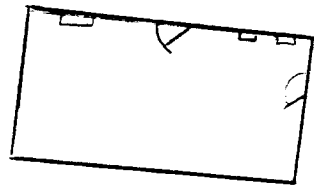
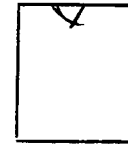
After 1907 Remodelling

NEWER
TENANT
HOUSE



House

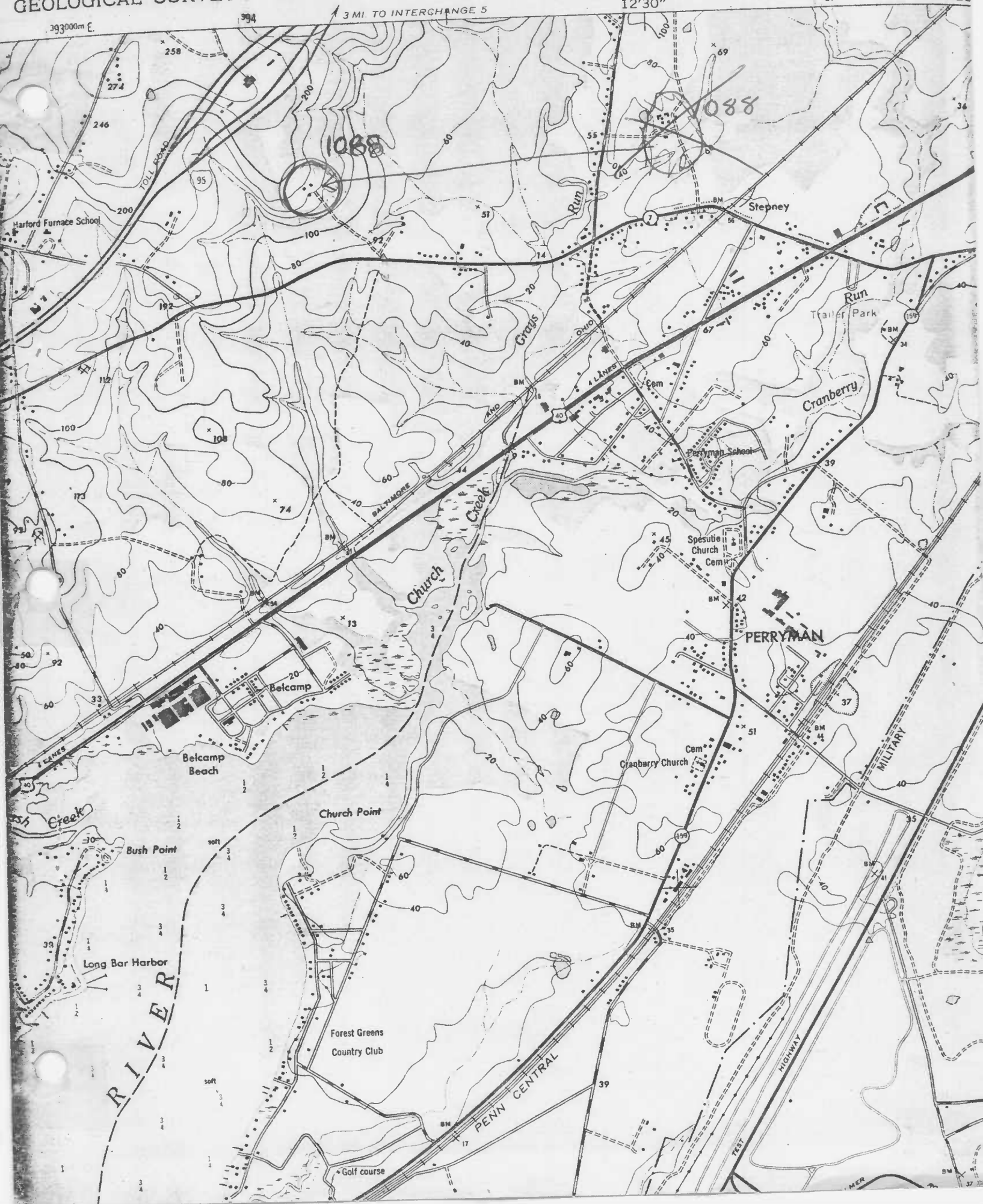
Smoke
House



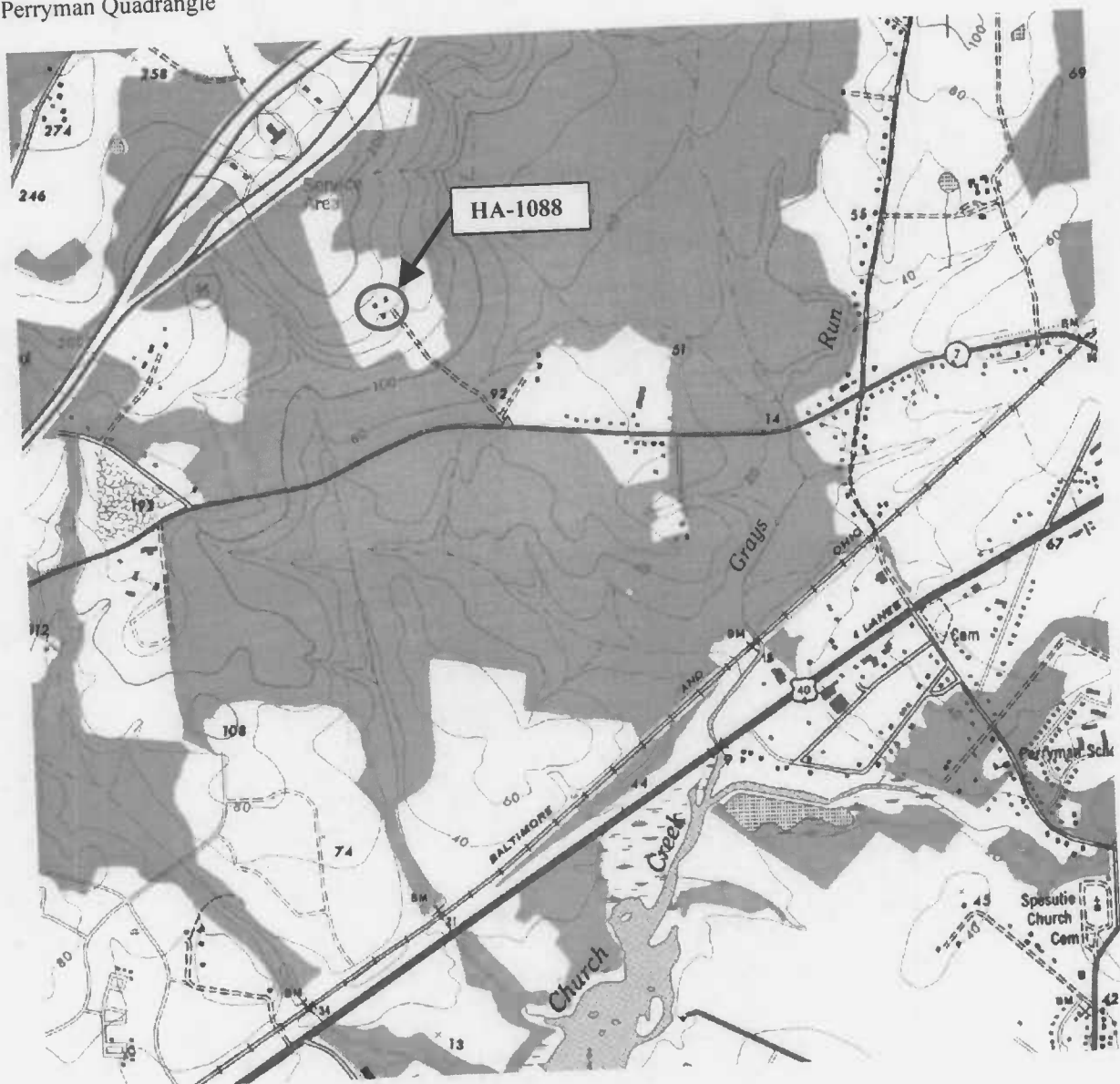
Stable

WOODLAWN FARMS

8801-88
118-1088



HA-1088
Woodlawn Farm
4800 Old Philadelphia Road (MD 7), Aberdeen
Perryman Quadrangle





Woodlawn Farm HA-⁺1088
4800 Old Philadelphia Rd.
Aberdeen, MD
Paul Penrod
South side

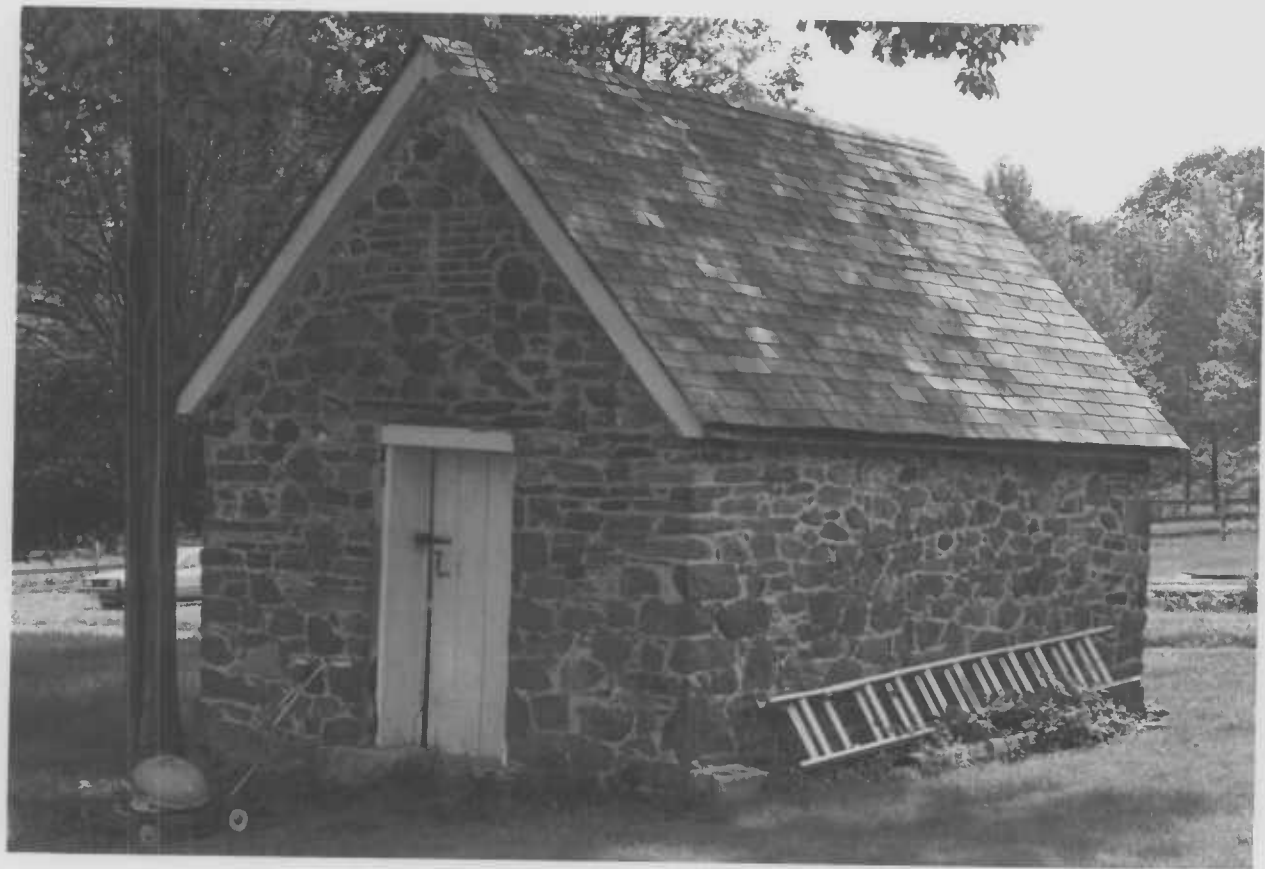
5/76



Woodlawn Farms HA-1088
4800 Old Philadelphia Rd.
Aberdeen, MD
Paul Penrod 5/76
Northwest Corner



Woodlawn Farm Barn HA-1088
4800 Old Philadelphia Rd.
Aberdeen, MD
Paul Penrod 5/76
South side



Woodlawn Farm Meathouse HA-1088
4800 Old Philadelphia Rd.
Aberdeen, MD
Paul Penrod 5/76
East side